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E. J. Layton
10/10/02

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. KWPT.P-007
PATENT APPLICATION
September 26, 2002

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Bernhardt
Serial No. : 10/001,513
Filing Date : 10/31/2001
Title : Safety Systems for Grinding Machines
Confirmation No: 3245

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SUBMISSION OF SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Hon. Commissioner Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231


Sir,

Applicant requests that the foreign references provided in April 2002 and listed on the attached Form 1449, be made of record in the Patent Office file relating to the above-captioned application. Attached are Concise Statements of Relevance concerning the foreign references.

Applicant does not believe fees are due with this submission as we have not received an action on the merits. However, the Commissioner is authorized to debit any fees deemed due from Deposit Account Number 15-0610.

Respectfully submitted,

OPPEDAHL & LARSON LLP


Carl Oppedahl, Reg. No. 32,746
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR §1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this paper and the attachments named herein are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Assistant Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231 on

9/27/02
9/27/02
Date of Signature


Linda L. Orr



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APPLICANT'S CONCISE STATEMENT OF RELEVANCE

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Listed below are concise statements of relevance from the client regarding the patents which are not in the English Language.

The invention relates to a grinding machine, particularly for grinding frozen or fresh meat, having a set of cutters displaying at least one blade. According to the invention a device is located downstream of the last blade in this set of cutters which is to prevent finger injuries of operating people caused by contact with the rotating blades. Furthermore the invention relates to a perforated plate including a means on which data, especially concerning size, thickness, operating time or the like of the perforated plate, can be stored and retrieved. Additionally the invention relates to a grinding machine comprising the perforated plate according to the invention. Finally the invention relates to a method for securing grinding machines wherein the data stored in said means of the perforated plate are retrieved and checked. Only if the result of this check is positive the grinding machine can be put into operation.

Documents D1, D2 and D3 listed in the search report of the European Patent Office were categorized "X", regarded as to be from particular relevance in view of the invention as claimed.

Regarding EP 0 695 581 A (D1) the Examiner noted particular relevance concerning initial claims 1 and 2 of the present application. Especially column 6, lines 1 to 3 and in Figure 4 of D1 were categorized "A" in view of claims 6 and 13 of the application. D1 describes a grinder (10) for use in a conventional kitchen appliance (14) comprising a shaft (62) as well as a rotating blade (52) pressed onto the surface of a perforated plate (44). To prevent the blade (52) from lifting off when cutting hard particles, the perforated plate (44), the blade (52) and the shaft (62) are held to each other by a con-rod (34) resulting in a minimum allowance. Furthermore the grinder (10) is put on a gear unit (16) of the kitchen appliance (14) which moves upwards into an exception (31) of said grinder (10).

But D1 does not disclose a safety device downstream of the last blade in the direction of material flow to prevent the operator from being injured by the blade.

Regarding BE 514 395 A (D2), especially in line 2 of page 3, the Examiner noted relevance concerning initial claims 1, 2 and 5 of the application. According to the Examiner, line 27 on page 3 and Figures 1 and 2 described the technical background of the invention as claimed in claims 6 and 13. D2 describes a grinder for producing an uninterrupted and continuous flow of meat having a tubular portion (5) comprising a shaft (16), a driven blade (41), in downstream direction followed by a bolt (33) and a perforated plate (42).

But D2 does not disclose a safety device downstream of the last blade either. Particularly the Examiner noted reference numbers 25 and 26 describing a ring-shaped bulge or bead (25) and a ring-shaped flange (26). But those components are not sufficient to prevent the operator from putting his hand into the grinder.

Respectfully submitted,

OPPEDAHL & LARSON LLP

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Carl Oppedahl".

Carl Oppedahl

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